



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Publications
Press Service



EDITOR: THIS STORY IS SENT YOU FOR
EXCLUSIVE USE IN YOUR CITY.

Release - Immediate.

1/10/22

GOVERNMENT HUNTER
KILLS ENORMOUS BEAR

JAN 10 1922

Caption for Photo--M. E. Musgrove, Government Hunter,
one of the Fox Terrier bear dogs, and skin of the
900-pound Black Bear.

When Daddy went a-hunting, according to an old nursery story, the best he could do was to get a rabbit skin to wrap the Baby Bunting in, but a Government hunter went a-hunting the other day and got a bear skin big enough to wrap the automobile in--and it was a seven-passenger touring car, too, that the bear skin made a top for.

It happened in Arizona on the reservation of the Moqui Indians. This 900-pound brute, forsaking the wholesome habits of the ordinary black bear, turned cattle killer and stirred up anew all the Black Bear superstitions that the Indians ever had. When he wanted a steer for dinner or a calf for breakfast, he went out and got it, and there was no Indian hanging around to cry scat or shy a rock.

Then the Government hunters--those wizards of the wilds that the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture employs to protect the Nation's live-stock interests from predatory animals--went on the job. They have all sorts of aids, those hunters--guns, traps, poison--but this time they took along a pack of wire-haired fox terriers.

Fox terriers can not kill a bear, but--Wellington could not defeat Napoleon. All he could do was to hold him till reinforcements came. And this pack of terriers did as well as Wellington. They got on the track of the bear in the snow, near the scene of his latest steer-killing operation, and trailed him to the place where he was getting ready to "hole up" for the winter. The den was not complete and extended only a little way into the earth. The dogs blocked him in--900 pounds of bear, equal to about 40 dogs in weight--and held him there for an hour.

Finally, the bear made a dash for liberty--but Blucher had arrived. In fact, half of him had arrived too early. One of the hunters--there were five of them on the hunt and two had come up with the dogs--had the temerity



to come very close to the mouth of the den just before Bruin made his grand rush. When the whirlwind broke, bear and dogs in a mighty mix-up, the big brute was almost on top of the hunter before he could move, and his gun was useless. The other hunter, standing to one side, got in a shot and dropped the bear only four feet from the man he had charged.

The bear fell without a struggle and rolled down the hill with all the terriers hanging on.

This was the first black bear killed by Government hunters in that region for a long time. They have orders from the Biological Survey not to molest the black bear unless he becomes a stock killer. Indeed, it is the universal policy of the Government hunters to leave the general run of wild animals alone and go after the outlaws that are destroying property.